

Quick facts on:



By accelerating the funding, design and construction of eight key Everglades restoration project components, the Everglades ecosystem will experience positive benefits much sooner and in a more cost-effective manner.

■ C-43 (Caloosahatchee River) West Reservoir

■ Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir with Bolles & Cross Canal Improvements

■ Everglades Agricultural Area Stormwater Treatment Area Expansion

■ Picayune Strand (Southern Golden Gate Estates) Restoration

■ C-44 (St. Lucie Canal) Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area

■ Water Preserve Areas

■ Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1

■ C-111 Spreader Canal

NOVEMBER 2004

Acceler8

STEPPING UP THE PACE TO RESTORE AMERICA'S EVERGLADES

Picayune Strand (Southern Golden Gate Estates) Restoration

Project Description

This Acceler8 project involves the restoration of natural water flow across 85 square miles in western Collier County, drained in the early 1960s with the intention of extensive residential development. This development dramatically altered the natural landscape, changing a healthy wetland ecosystem into a distressed environment. The project includes 83 canal plugs, 227 miles of road removal, and the addition of pump stations and spreader swales to aid in rehydration of wetlands and maintenance of flood protection for the Northern Golden Gate Estates residential area.

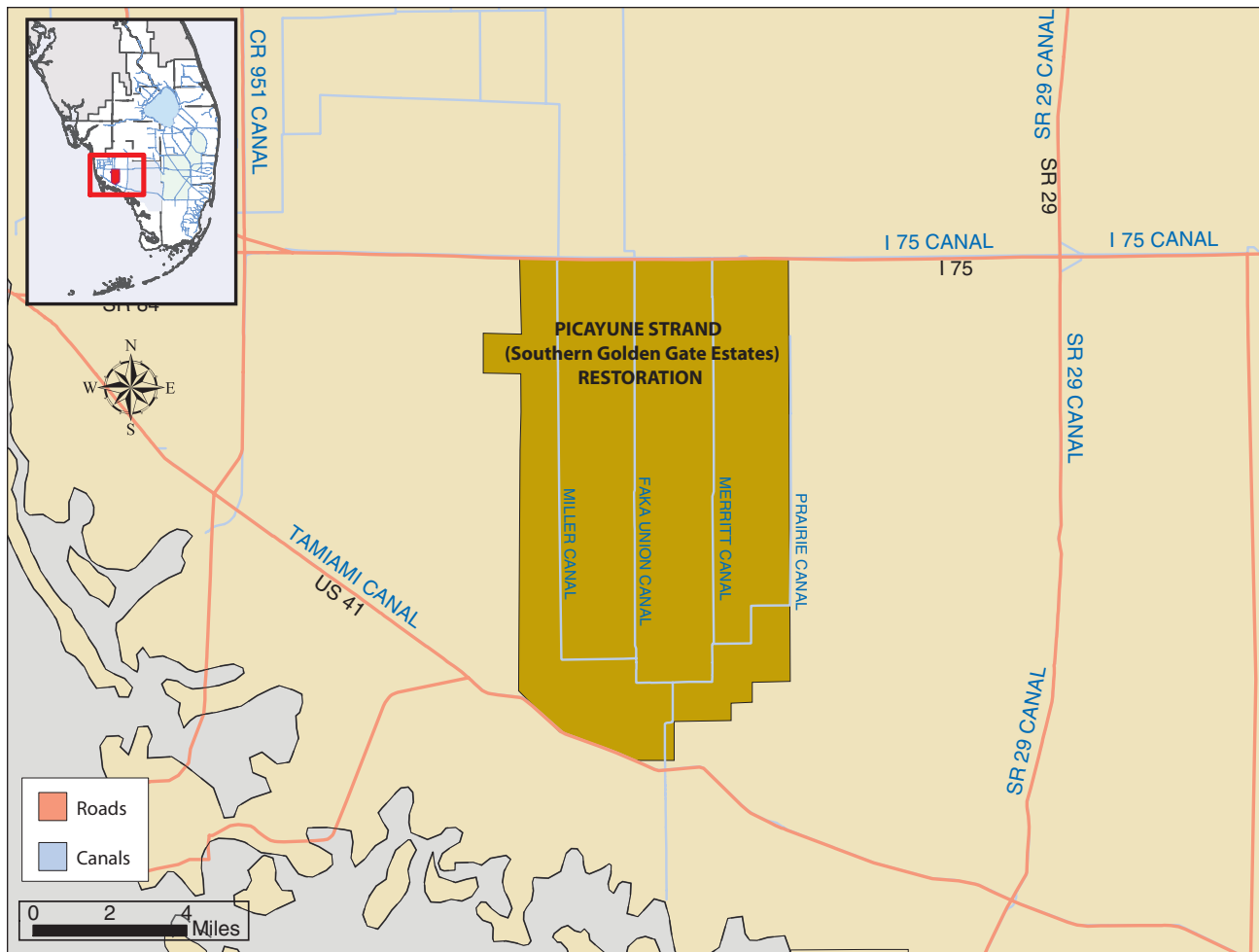
Purpose and Benefits

- Restore and enhance the wetlands in Picayune Strand (Southern Golden Gate Estates) and in adjacent public lands by reducing over-drainage
- Restore a natural and beneficial sheetflow of water to the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge
- Significantly increase the size of wetlands and improve major wetland ecosystems in adjacent lands including the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Collier Seminole State Park, benefiting threatened and endangered species such as the Florida panther and the red cockaded woodpecker
- Improve water quality and volume of water delivered to coastal estuaries by moderating large salinity fluctuations caused by fresh water flowing from the Faka Union Canal into the estuaries
- Maintain existing flood protection for Northern Golden Gate Estates
- Provide public access and recreation opportunities

Project Status

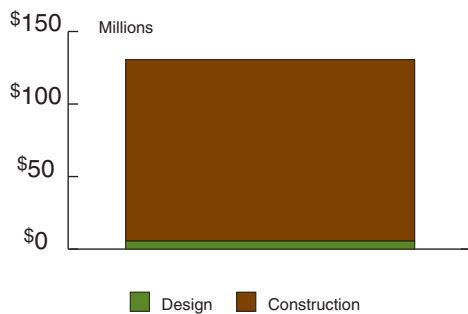
In 2003, the state of Florida began work to plug the northern seven miles of the Prairie Canal, one of the four large canals that will be filled, in an early effort to expedite restoration of critical western lands. As this work proceeds, work plans are being developed to complete the remaining components of this project.

Real Estate: 97% acquired.



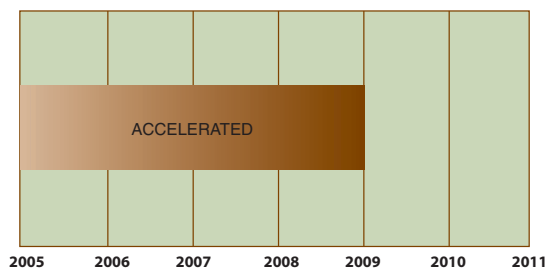
The Southern Golden Gate Estates (Picayune Strand) Restoration project is located in western Collier County. This Acceler8 project will restore a natural sheetflow of water across wetlands that were overdrained by development.

Project Cost



Estimated Annual Operating Cost: \$1.5 million per year

Project Timeline



ACCELER8
evergladesnow.org



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